UNIVERSITY OF Minnesota

February 17, 1970

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY
MAYO MEMORIAL BUILDING · MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55455

Dear Harold,

Good letter to Nichols of the San Diego AIC. I'm afraid that they are back on the Garrison-type bandwagon.

I do not see what you mean when you say that Curry's page 31 is absolute proof of things relating to the "Last Train" research. My two main feelings on the "Last Train" stuff are these: 1. There is some sort of an ambiguity in the photos which intuitively doesn't make sense and which is hard to explain based on different angles 2. But, on the contrary, it makes no sense at all that anyone would remove the trains (i.e. I suspect that Lifton is working on the idea that someone stood on top of the trains and shot over the pergola in line with his high angle head-hit theory, but why not just erase the men and leave the train?). I haven't said a word about the Sirhan work. Right now I would settle for Fred sending me details of the TV showing of the Z film so I can send it to Jerry.

I still haven't heard from Mary about the followup on Ahler which was not only simple to do but set up for her when I left Dallas. I have asked directly about it now 3 different times and she has not responded, although she has written a number of times in between. I can't understand why she hasn't either done it or sent me the results.

On the Ferrie stuff it always amazed me that they didn't try to suppeana it

I do not have that Thornley testimony and suspect that it is somewhere in Garrison's office or was lifted from there by anyone from Lane to Bethell. I sent it to you there, through them, I think, rather than through Matt. I am about 95% certain of it. Besides, Matt's place isn't too cluttered for it to have turned up long ago.

Air Force not having heard about Davison is like the ONI not having records of the leafletting of the WASP.

On your letter of 2/9 to Paul and myself, agreed of course on the effect of Mark, Mort, and Turner, Boxley to me is a much more minor figure, and I place much of the blame on Jim's deficiencies. The real irony is that if just Mark had done the right thing everything would probably have been OK, because being a lawyer he would have had more influence.

Definitely agreed on LHO literature dist. photos--we have to get that Doyle film.

In your letter of 2-11 I didn't follow the third paragraph about my advice that Paul write Jim. I don't have any carbons of my letters to you, so I can't check them for what you refer to. All I remember is at one point suggesting that Paul write Jim and ask for the transcripts based on the fact that we deserve them--especially given that Paul is a neutral party in his eyes as compared with you. Jim would not necessarily act out of guilt, etc., with regard to Harold the way he might to with Paul, since Harold he can pass off as not his type of guy.

I think that we're agreed on Boxley. He is a very weak and pitiful person and I feel sorry for him in some ways, although naturally such a person can do almost unlimited damage when in that kind of a relationship with a person like Jim in which it is made clear what Jim wants.

Agreed that McCarthy could have drunk himself to death, but I think that it is worthwhile to keep an open ear. Perhaps some of our right wing contacts might find sufficient incentive in that one to learn some things about the military or Bethesda. I have a guy who will be in Washington for some time who I think I will ask to become an expert on Forrestal. He is bright but knows next to nothing about the JFK assassination, so this would be a more appropropriate use of him. He is very interested in researching the military and like topics besides. Once he is settled and I get his address, I will explore the possibility that he could run errands for you in the archives.

My letter to Barry is enclosed. I may be a bit paranoid, but there is something about him which makes me uneasy. My girlfriend (or I should say ex-girlfriend) Marion, who is of a personality type as far removed from paranoid as we know of, didn't like or trust him when we met him, and chided me for being so insensative to a number of things about him. I suppose what bothers me the most is despite all the talk, the promises, the time he spent working in the Washington area, and his descriptions of his interviews, etc., I have never gotten one single item from him,

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even though I have requested and he had many times promised. He is amazingly unlike, in so many ways, the others who I have met who have become active in work on the case, or even who have been interested in the case. When he is back I plan to again push for copies of all those things he promised. How in God's name did he get Curry's book on board his ship?

I have the complete Crafard name file plus our preliminary memos. I soon will have the pages indexed to him that weren't in that file. No more archives work is necessary, although some of the memos may get your mind moving on peripheral matters. Some of what is needed here is moreinterviewing. My interview with Jarnegin was a big disappointment in this regard. I would like to do a bit of prowling in Michigan, perhaps on the way to Phila. if I ever get to visit the East again! Paul has those files so that if you want them you can get xeroxes at minimal cost. In fact, I will be glad to foot the bill. (I just got a raise for my fine work, which is a lot of bullshit because it was the result of pressure--we are organizing inside the clinic with the social workers and psychologists vs. the psychiatrists. Also, I will be working full time because it is a necessity with us down one psychologist until September. If anyone gets sick it will be the Coup d'gras.)
I wasn't thinking too clearly when I wrote you about the 7" reels. I can send those tapes anytime you like. Why not listen to them when you are relaxing. You can never tell what you might spot.
I have not had time to finish Coup, but I have not spotted any errors which Paul H. did not, so I am not worried about the rush. I had forgotten about the negro-black switch, so I will go back through when I get the chance and note them.
Your letter of 2/11: As I have said before, it is frustrating to be here when I could render a few professional services and better yet, do a much better job of harrassing MD's, if I were there. Amnesia wouldn't cause the falls, but could be something which could have occurred as a result, or along with it as another symptom.
Agreed on Vince, as much as I feel very close to him, he has provided encouragement for what I consider are bad moves by Jim.
Agreed on the potential for John N. hurting chances of getting things jarred loose.
Do not agree with your analysis in your next paragraph. I accept your description since it is the one I expected and most people feel that way, but do not think that it is the best approach. Any excess of emotion over this situation (and excess is best defined functionally by how much you feel it) is not justified in rational terms because that emotion cannot change anything and may in fact hinder your work. I disagree that anxiety has not affected your work. It has cost you money, time, concern, and the symptoms it has brought on have caused more worry, loss of time, etc. Again, I apologize for not being able to communicate better, but I have never discussed such things in writing.
If you are right that there was no hyperventillation EEG, then that should be done. Ask about that. Whether you did any hyperventillating that morning is hard to determine now, since it is an unconscious thing which you have just recently learned to monitor. Changing medication to Valium or Librium is a good idea, but you are going to have to practice cooling off more on your own when trouble arises and channeling your tension into work because these are not quite as strong as what you were taking. They may be just as effective since the mode of action is slightly different. To tell you the truth, I was surprised that you were not on one of these, but didn't think anything would be accomplished by asking you about it at the time.
Your letter of 2/13: the new doctor sounds more competent--thoroughness is one of the best ways to judge Harold--a very experienced man sometimes sets his mind too soon and ignores things because they are unlikely, and thus misses--the Mayo Clinic is good because it offers one thing--thoroughness. If I worked there, and I could, my ability would be no greater, but I would be far more thorough. He has given good advice in regard to followup. Smart to wait on a Psych consult. Don't worry about getting in touch fast--that won't make the big difference it would seem to make. I hope that they rule out metabolic things carefully, like hypoglycemia. If they are present they are very easy to deal with in general.
On the other physical sensations, your personality type predisposes you to pay more attention to somatic things and physical feedback via your general internal sensory system, especially when worried or under stress. Be aware that some of the things or sensations you feel are the result of your hyper-awareness of normal bodily feedback due to your concern about not knowing what is wrong. The sugar tolerance test should clearup the hypoglycemia question.
You might be interested in knowing that yours truly solved a big psychiatric question the other day which dealt with such a problem: a woman came in with severe headaches and other

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potentially neurologically based symptoms. The consult asked for both brain damage testing and personality testing to try to look for organic disorder of the brain or evidence for a personality type which might produce such symptoms due to emotional stress. During the interview the patient mentioned having been diagnosed diabetic just a month before. She was a poor person who naturally got little in the way of medical care and who could live with pain for long periods without complaining. So, I checked the glucose level in her regular test results and found it was way off--in fact, enough so that her life might even be in jepardy. The Psychiatrist hadn't yet noted that and hadn't elicited anything about diabetes in the interview. I pointed it out and made note of the fact that all of the symptoms were easily explicable based on diabetes, and that she was probably not properly either a psychiatric or neurological patient. In your case, what I wondered about was the much more common hypoglycemia episodes which can lead to dizziness or drousyness. Basically, hypoglycemia is when you suddenly don't have enough sugar in your blood.

Well, I've got to go now. Enclosed are self-explanatory carbons of letters to various people. Best wishes to you and Lil.

Gary

cc:Paul

Not on carbon to Paul: On your letter of 2/4: I don't know whether Paul knew where that report was misfiled, but I didn't, and so I wonder whether he did. I knew that you got it because of misfiling, but had no idea where. In fact, does anyone else know where it was misfiled. It would, of course, have made more sense to have told Paul than me or Dick or Howard, because Paul knows the files much better. But I just can't imagine Paul sending things to John Nichols, and doubt that they are in touch about anything other than the manuscripts, if they are in touch about that. Furthermore, don't try to make sense out of Nichols behavior. First of all, it may not make any sense. Or, it may make sense for reasons we could never guess. Or, it may be a signal that he is guilty and anxious and doing weird things. Or, it may be purposefully mixed up in order to confuse you. Or,he may be trying to portray himself as a nut. Believe me, in trying to determine motivation from the final behavior we overreach all of our abilities. I am trained in it and wouldn't begin to try in such a bizarre case. His sudden need for something ridiculous may be a false front, or true for some weird reason, or indicate his lack of knowledge and confusion on the subject. One thing I may be able to answer, however, is your question as to why he is asking you. Because he wants to suddenly breach the gap, etc., by exchanging things of little importance and getting to be pals and talking business rather than theft, and doing things which you don't expect. Whether it is conscious or unconscious doesn't matter Harold. You have overlooked what I think is the answer even though you have seen it: the very fact that it is this confusing and ridiculous suggests that guilt or anxiety is functioning on his part. He did it and wrote some of the things he did because he is feeling guilt, anxiety, regardless of what his motives are or how conscious his theft from you was. But suspicion of Paul is unwarranted.

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